

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? 6-16-09 Plainville Schools, Plainville, NH

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other:

*In Farmington Township on map 3
B112-B89 affects multiple
dairy farms but
B159 + B160 options do
not affect any dairy
farms, affect less
homes*

I-187-001

I-187-007

*Impact on dairy-farmer-land (accessed multiple x/year) vs. crop-farmer-only-land.
Routes should be put in crop farm only land for less interference + health threat to farmers.*

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-187-008

Concern about health issues, especially related to children as we live w/in 0.5 miles of proposed routes and have 3 kids under 5 yrs. We are one of very few families w/ young children in Farmington Township due to 60 acre zoning ordinance. On map 3 in Farmington Township the proposed B112-B89 route comes w/in 0.5 mi. of our home and cuts my in-laws dairy farm in half (Malwitz - 10852 40 Avenue NE) - the children spend much time here. Wouldn't it make more sense to move routes away from the only young children in the area? I propose alternative routes B159 + B160 to the east as more economical + direct routes that do not impact kids, affect less homes, and does not cross dairy land which is accessed much more frequently than strictly corn + soybean farms which are accessed much less and fall along B159 + B160 routes.

I-187-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Property Address: 9525 40 Avenue NE, Elgin, MN 55932 (section 3, Farmington Township, MN)

Nearby family farm: Malwitz, 10852 40 Avenue NE, Elgin, MN (Dairy farm)

- We have 3 children under 5 yrs. of age. Lines are proposed w/in 0.5 miles of our home and on our family farm up the road. Concerned about health negative impact on children. Really are no other small children in the area. Propose route options B159 + B160 as more direct, affect less homes, no dairy farms crossed + no children affected. Our kids spend much time at grandparents (Malwitz) dairy farm. Must also consider that routes will affect dairy farmers much more than just crop (corn + soybean) farmers as dairy farmers access their land much more frequently for haying, etc. Throughout the year whereas crop farmers only access their land twice a year (2 x/year for planting + harvest). (Our home also has historical significance as a former 1-room school.) In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, school, etc.) in the Project area and why?

I-187-003

I-187-002

- Health + safety from EMF exposure to those nearby these lines. Especially for young children - research suggests increased health risks w/ lower voltage lines already so whose to say what will happen w/ these much larger lines. Health + safety risks are greater for dairy vs. crop only farmers as dairy farmers are exposed much more. Also makes it much less convenient for dairy farmers to access their land which happens frequently throughout year compared to crop farmers ^{only}.

I-187-009

I-187-004

- Concern for negative impact on wildlife habitat.
 - Concern for decreased aesthetic + property value of land/homes. We live in a historically significant one-room school house, these lines would wreck the value + history of this.

I-187-010

- concern for not being able to use our land + family farm in a recreational manner with our kids any longer due to health threats.

I-187-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-003

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-004

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-187-011 Need up to date, comparable research on health risks of these high voltage power lines. Existing research is not fairly comparable to the high voltage of these power lines + threats of living near (especially for children). No studies over time either for these large power lines, EMFs.

I-187-005 I question the need to cut cross farm + home land unfairly and to threaten health, safety, wildlife, land + property value, ability to farm use land recreationally as a cross-way means. Why not stay along interstates + highways? (i.e. Hwy 52, Interstate 90)? Why destroy country way of life if this project is as "Safe + positive" as those behind it portray? If this is the case go along existing right of way.

I-187-012 It doesn't seem that all possible routes are being considered fairly + with all consequences, i.e. B159 + B160 routes on map 3, Farmington township, are more direct + less impacting of homes, children, dairy farms vs. B112 - B189 route options.

I-187-006 Please tell us how to reach you. Also, there are multiple missing homes on the map even after we have requested them to be added multiple times! Along 40+ are NE between Hwy 247 + Co Rd 21 (including at intersections, there are 15 homes, only 10 listed. Never seems to be any response or follow through with our input, suggestions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Mitch Walch

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 9525 46 Avenue NE

City: Elgin

State: MN

Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 - 288 - 3310

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-187-005

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-187-006

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I-187-007

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I-187-008

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources as well as human health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-011

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-012

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.